

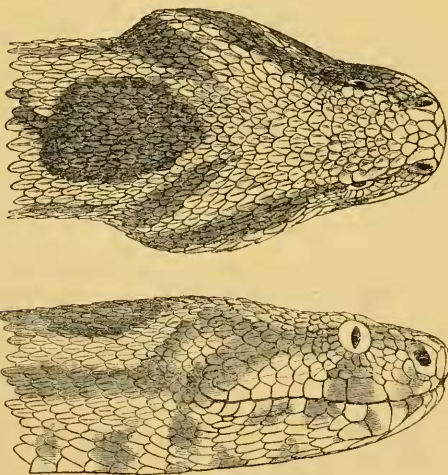
ON A SPECIES OF *VIPERA* HITHERTO UNKNOWN.

By E. D. COPE.

VIPERA CONFLUENTA, sp. nov.

Head much longer than broad, covered with small scales, which are more or less keeled as far anterior as the postfrontal region. Superciliaries little developed, once or many times divided. Scales of the upper surface of the muzzle larger; a well-developed supranasal. Prenasal large, erect, undivided; postnasal developed in front of, and narrowly superior to, the nostril. Three rows of scales between the orbits and the superior labials. The latter are eleven in number, the fourth longest, the first in contact with the prenasal. Rostral higher than broad. Inferior labials fourteen, fifth largest. Scales of the body in 25 rows, all keeled, never spiniferous. Gastrosteges 180; urosteges 48. Length from muzzle to rictus $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch, from muzzle to vent $30\frac{1}{2}$ inches, from vent to end of tail $4\frac{2}{3}$ inches.

General ground-colour brownish yellow; belly paler. A broad undulating brown band, resembling a confluence of alternate rounded spots, extends from the nape to the end of the tail. A dark brown lateral streak, which is interrupted at regular intervals, extends



throughout the greater part of the length. Labial regions yellowish; a brown band from orbit to angle of mouth; a brown spot below orbit.

The habitat of this species is not known, but is probably Africa. Its nearest ally is the *V. Libitina*, with which it forms a section of the genus characterized by a superciliary plate more or less subdivided, and leading off to *Echidna*. In the writer's opinion, the genus *Vipera* is to be separated from *Echidna* by its large prenasal plate, and postnasal slightly developed above the nostril, which is always

lateral: in *Echidna* the prenasal is replaced by scales, and the post-nasal is much developed above the nostril, which is usually vertical; in *E. Atropos* the nostril is vertico-lateral.

One specimen of this *Vipera* belongs to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and another is in the British Museum. For an opportunity of examining and figuring the latter, my acknowledgments are due to the distinguished officers of the institution, Drs. Gray and Günther.

RECORD OF THE PERIOD OF GESTATION OF CERTAIN RUMINANTS WHICH BREED IN THE SOCIETY'S GARDENS. BY P. L. SCLATER, M.A., PH.D., F.R.S., ETC., SECRETARY TO THE SOCIETY.

The period of gestation of certain animals of the class of Ruminants which habitually breed in the Society's Menagerie has been ascertained with tolerable exactness. Of course the period is slightly variable; but the times given in the following list are, on the average, very faithfully adhered to.

Fam. CERVIDÆ.

Wapiti Deer (<i>Cervus canadensis</i>)..	} 8 months.
Persian Deer (<i>C. Wallichii</i>).....	
Barasingha Deer (<i>C. Duvaucelii</i>)..	
Japanese Deer (<i>C. sika</i>)	
Sambur Deer (<i>C. Aristotelis</i>)	
Rusa Deer (<i>C. rusa</i>).....	
Hog Deer (<i>C. porcinus</i>)	
Axis Deer (<i>C. axis</i>)	

Fam. CAMELIDÆ.

Lama (<i>Auchenia glama</i>)	} 11 months.
Alpaca (<i>A. pacos</i>).....	

Fam. CAMELOPARDIDÆ.

Giraffe (<i>Camelopardalis giraffa</i>) ..	15 months.
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Fam. BOVIDÆ.

Punjab Wild Sheep (<i>Ovis cycloceros</i>) }	4 months.
Moufflon Sheep (<i>O. musimon</i>) . . . }	
Leucoryx Antelope (<i>Oryx leucoryx</i>)	8 months.
Eland Antelope (<i>Oreas canna</i>) ..	9 months.
Nylghai Antelope (<i>Portax picta</i>) .	Between 8 and 9 months.

The Hippopotamus has never bred with us; but I may state that the period of gestation in this animal is known to be short. The female in the Amsterdam Gardens, which has twice produced young in that establishment, went only 7 months and 16 days on the first of these occasions, and 7 months 20 days on the second.